

REMARKS

Claim 21 has been canceled.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 2 and 16 are pending in the application.

Summary of Examiner Interview

On August 23, 2005, Applicants' representative met with Examiner Fischer to discuss the rejections over Fukuhara, Mori, and Fukumoto. Applicants pointed out in the interview that there were numerous translation errors in the machine translation of JP 2000-17115 ("Fukuhara"). The Examiner indicated that he recognized the errors in the machine translation. For example, claim 1 in the machine translation of JP 2000-17115 recites "(A) A rubber component and the steel cord adhesive property rubber constituent characterized as containing (B)...." However, the translation of claim 1 should actually read "A steel cord adhesive rubber composition comprising (A) a rubber component and (B) 0.5 to 20 parts by weight of a water-resistant, acid-receiving agent based on 100 parts by weight of the rubber component." This error is evident from the Abstract of JP 2000-17115. For the Examiner's convenience a copy of the abstract of JP 2000-17115 is attached herewith. Additionally, as stated in the Interview Summary, the Examiner agrees that Fukuhara contains steel reinforcing elements and is different from the squeegee rubber of the claimed invention. With respect to Fukumoto and Mori, the Examiner suggested that Applicants present arguments and/or evidence to overcome the rejections.

Response

Claims 2 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fukuhara, JP 2000-171115 (“Fukuhara”).

Claim 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fukuhara further in view of Kobayashi, Nosu, and the “admitted” Prior Art.

Claim 21 has been canceled and thus the rejection of claim 21 is moot.

As discussed above, Fukuhara discloses a steel cord adhesive rubber composition which is embedded with reinforcing elements, such as steel cords, which is completely different from Applicants’ claimed squeegee rubber composition. Applicants have amended claim 2 to clarify that the squeegee rubber composition comprises “a natural rubber and/or a synthetic isoprene rubber in the amount of 50% by weight or more based on the total rubber of the squeegee rubber composition.” Applicants submit that it is clear the squeegee rubber composition layer is not anticipated or obvious over Fukuhara. Kobayashi, Nosu, and the “admitted” Prior Art do not make up for the deficiencies of Fukuhara. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the presently claimed invention would not be obvious over Fukuhara in view of Kobayashi, Nosu, and the “admitted” Prior Art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Mori, JP 08027333, further in view of Fukumoto, JP 61060302 (“Fukumoto”), or in the alternative over Fukumoto further in view of Mori.

Claim 16 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over either one of (a) Mori in view of Fukumoto or (b) Fukumoto in view of Mori, as applied in claim 2 above, and further in view of Kobayashi, Nosu, and the “admitted” prior art (page 5, lines 13-15).

Applicants respectfully submit that it would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art, from the teachings of the art of record, to incorporate a cobalt salt of an organic acid, which is taught to be mixed in the inner layer 5b of Fukumoto at the carcass side comprising mainly natural rubber, into the halogenated butyl rubber composition disclosed in Mori.

Additionally, with respect to claim 16, the examiner states that it is obvious to incorporate calcined hydrotalcites disclosed in Kobayashi or Nosu into the rubber composition disclosed in Fukuhara. However, Applicants submit that Kobayashi only describes incorporating a calcined hydrotalcite into a halogen-containing acrylic rubber composition and Nosu only discloses incorporating a hydrotalcite, whose water of crystallization has been removed by heating, into a halogen-containing resin. As both of the disclosures of Kobayashi and Nosu are related to a halogen-containing polymer composition, and are not related to a coating rubber composition such as disclosed in Fukuhara, which mainly comprises natural rubber and/or synthetic isoprene rubber, Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have combined the teachings of Kobayashi or Nosu with those of Fukuhara.

Additionally, with respect to combining the teachings of Fukumoto and Mori, Applicants respectfully submit that Fukumoto discloses a two-inner-liner-layer-structure having an inner liner layer 5b at the carcass side comprising 100 parts by weight of rubber component containing

natural rubber in amount of 50% by weight or more, 2 to 8 parts by weight of sulfur, 0.5 to 5 parts by weight of a cobalt salt of organic acid and an innermost inner liner layer 5a comprising a rubber component containing a halogenated butyl rubber in amount of 50% by weight or more and no cobalt salt of organic acid, while Mori describes rubber compositions comprising 100 parts by weight of a chlorinated butyl rubber and 0.1 to 30 parts by weight of a hydrotalcite compound in order to prevent the scorch of the rubber composition.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that at best one of ordinary skill in the art may have found it obvious to try to incorporate a hydrotalcite compound mixed in a halogenated butyl rubber composition, as disclosed in Mori, into the innermost inner liner layer 5a of Fukumoto, which comprises a halogenated butyl rubber. However, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, from the teachings of the art of record, to incorporate a hydrotalcite compound, which is taught to be mixed in a halogenated butyl rubber composition as disclosed in Mori, into an inner liner layer 5b of Fukumoto at the carcass side comprising mainly natural rubber.

Applicants submit that the presently claimed invention would not be obvious over Mori in view of Fukumoto or in the alternative over Fukumoto further in view of Mori. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the each of the rejections.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

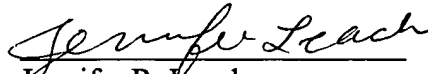
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